

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL at 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2010

Present: Cllr Robins (Chair)
Councillors March, Fletcher, Stevens, Parker, Clemson, Cheesman and Holloway.

In attendance: Lucy Noakes (Clerk)
4 members of the public
Cllr Callow (TWBC)

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. Cllrs March and Cheesman declared an interest in planning application TW/09/02437/FUL/TA1 and took no part in the discussion or decision making process regarding this application. Cllr March also declared an interest in planning application TW/10/00029/HOUSE/SEP and again took no part in the discussion or decision making process for this application.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

KCC Cllr Alex King.
TWBC Cllr Slade
Cllr Hughes.

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Naylor wished to address the Council about several matters regarding the Village Green. Mr Naylor said that the hedge to the right hand side (when coming out of Green Road on to the Goudhurst Road) is still obscuring the view when pulling out in a vehicle. This belongs to Heathside. Cllr Robins said he would take a look at this when passing, but that the residents had cut the hedge back a long way in the autumn, as requested by the Council.

Mr Naylor also mentioned the hedge on the right hand side if pulling out of Green Road on to the Maidstone Road. This belongs to Southfield. The Clerk to write to the residents of Southfield again and remind them that the hedge needs to be kept cut back as far as possible, in order to maintain visibility when pulling out of Green Road and also to maintain the width of the pavement along this stretch.

Mr Naylor mentioned the water which seems to continually bubble out of the drain on the pavement just along from Crowhursts. The Clerk will report this again to Highways.

Some discussions took place about an email received from Alan Legg at TWBC regarding the need to apply for planning permission before the Millennium plinth could be installed onto the Green. Mr Legg had mentioned various other items such as seats and posts which are on the Green and could be reviewed at the same time. Cllr Robins said that as many of the items had been on the Green for well over 4 years, then it should not be necessary for the Council to seek planning consent for them at this stage. It was estimated by several members of the Council that the seats and posts in particular had been on the Green for over 40 years.

Mr Naylor also mentioned that the historical society had now decided to donate £50 towards the replacement bench which would be to commemorate Bernard and Jean Fowler.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting – 4th January 2010

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th January 2010 were taken as read and proposed for approval by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Stevens. Unanimous.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr March stated that she and Cllr Robins had now arranged to meet with Ken Tutt and Nick May on 8th March to discuss further the possibility of starting a Parish Plan.

5. PLANNING

5.1 Planning Applications

Planning Application No:	TW/09/02437/FUL/TA1
Proposal:	Renewal and improvement of play facilities
Location:	Locket Green, Back Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Parker, seconded Cllr Fletcher. Unanimous.
Comments:	The Parish Council has no objections to the overdue redevelopment and improvement of this village facility.

Planning Application No:	TW/10/00013/LBC/TA1
Proposal:	Variation of condition 4 of Listed Building Consent TW/06/00082 – To remove the words ‘Before any work commences’ from the requirement to provide detailed methodology statement for the dismantling, relocation and repair of the byre (work already completed)
Location:	Castlemaine Oast House, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Chair. Unanimous.
Comments:	The Parish Council has no objections.

Planning Application No:	TW/10/000045/FUL/TA1
Proposal:	Retrospective – Oil tanks, oil tank and bin storage enclosure, and fencing to sub-divide gardens
Location:	Castlemaine Oast House, Maidstone Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Clemson. Carried.
Comments:	The Parish Council believe this looks neat and tidy.

Planning Application No:	TW/10/000016/HOUSE/CLC
Proposal:	Reduction in height and volume of part of garage to form store
Location:	2 Grovehurst Cottages, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Refusal.
Proposed:	Cllr Parker, seconded Cllr Holloway. Unanimous.
Comments:	Recent development of this site is causing it to be overdeveloped and the Parish Council would not support the retention in any form of the extension to the garage.

Planning Application No:	TW/10/00029/HOUSE/SEP
Proposal:	Extension over existing single storey
Location:	Lake Cottage, Furnace Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Clemson. Unanimous.
Comments:	Suitable extension.

Planning Application No:	TW/09/03334/LBC/TA1
Proposal:	Listed Building Consent: Conversion of the curtilage listed ancillary outbuilding adjacent to Park farm and extension of the domestic curtilage.
Location:	Park Farm, Smallbridge Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge.
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposed:	Cllr March, seconded Cllr Clemson.
Comments:	However, the Parish Council would like the permitted development rights removed, in order to prevent domestic paraphernalia.

Planning Application No:	TW/10/00133/FULMJ/CT2
Proposal:	Erection of 15 dwellings for local housing needs
Location:	Land West of Kirkins Close, Gibbett Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge
Recommendation:	Refusal.
Proposed:	Chair. Unanimous.
Comments:	<p>The parish Council is generally in favour of the external appearance of the properties but was looking to have some of the properties providing accommodation on one floor with suitable facilities for disabled/elderly residents.</p> <p>The applicant states that they will widen Gibbett Lane in the vicinity of the site. The Parish Council, whilst welcoming the increased width, would ask that it be the whole length of the site, but this would appear to be contradicted by the applicants statement that they intend to 'retain and enhance' the hedge. The Parish Council has a preference that the hedge be removed, as it will only thicken and cause restrictions to road width for pedestrians and traffic in the future.</p> <p>The Parish Council understands the need for the virtual footpath,</p>

	<p>but feels that this could be achieved by the road being made one way before the development plan is passed.</p> <p>The Parish Council does not feel that the Highways solutions put forward for pedestrian access are satisfactory due to the conflict between vehicle movements and pedestrian movements.</p> <p>There is no provision shown on the plan for pedestrian footpaths within the site. There also appears to be a lack of parking facilities on site for visitors.</p> <p>In conclusion: the Parish Council recommends refusal and would welcome a discussion with Cascade Homes to resolve these problems.</p>
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5.2 Report of Permissions Granted and Refused

Permissions Granted.

TW/09/03441/FUL/SJM – Lewes Heath Bungalow, Lewes Heath, Horsmonden

TW/09/03367/HOUSE/TA1 – 1 Station Cottages, Goudhurst Road, Horsmonden, Tonbridge

TW/09/03826/HOUSE/CLC – Park Lodge, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge

TW/09/03827/LBC/CLC – Park Lodge, Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge

Permissions Refused.

None.

Appeals Successful

TW/09/01989/FUL/SJM – Capel Manor House, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden

Appeals Unsuccessful

TW/08/03885FUL/TA1 – Twin Valleys, Lewes Heath, Horsmonden

6. FINANCE

6.1 Parish Council Accounts to 31st January 2010

The following accounts in respect of the period up to 31st January 2010 were presented to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Clemson and seconded by Cllr Fletcher to accept the accounts as shown. Unanimous

Horsmonden Parish Council Accounts as at 31st January 2010

	Balances
Current account b/fwd 04.01.10	£ 1,905.56
Deposit account b/fwd 04.01.10	£ 47,016.66
Interest received (Deposit Account)	

Item	Ref	Receipts	Payments
Viking Direct - stationery	400698		£ 96.41
Southern Water - public conveniences to 27.11.09	400699		£ 66.42
British telecommunications Plc (up to 8.1.10)	400700		£ 117.63
Southern Electric Contracting Ltd - Dec maintenance	400701		£ 129.93

Gillett & Johnston - clock service	400702	£ 204.45
EDF Energy 1 Ltd - supply 01.10.09 - 31.12.09	400703	£ 361.44
Symon Jones - Jan scavenging	400704	£ 75.45
CJ Couchman - January clock and play area	400705	£ 98.65
Mr L Bateup - mowing VG summer 2009	400706	£ 209.00
Mrs L Noakes - January salary	S/O	£ 608.61
HM Inspector of Taxes (tax & NI Mrs L Noakes)	400707	£ 52.46
Specialist Hygiene Services - Jan Cleaning	400708	£ 168.02
Interest on current account		£0.31
Payment form Farmers market for electrcity box VG		£76.15
Current Account as at 03.01.10		£ 1,793.55
Deposit Account as at 03.01.10		£ 45,016.66

TOTAL BANK: £ 46,810.21

6.2 Methods of payment for goods/services by Cllrs and Clerk

The Council had received a banker's card for use by the Councillors and it was brought to the Council's attention that as all payments should be signed by two signatories, use of such a card may not be preferable. It was proposed by the Chair that the card be destroyed and that the Council make no further payments by this method. Unanimous.

6.3 Quotes for VH gutter repair

The Clerk had received two quotations for repairing/replacing part of the gutter to the left hand side on the village hall. Steve Isaac's had quoted £192 plus VAT to replace with new plastic gutter which would match the extension. Julian Newton had quoted £91.25 (net) to replace with plastic guttering. The Council agreed to ask Julian Newton to carry out the job, as the cheapest quotation available.

6.4 Expenditure on plastic posts for VG (together with grant from Alex King)

The Clerk was still awaiting the Conservation architect's confirmation that the Council can replace the wooden posts around the Green with those made from recycled materials and as such had not completed the order form.

It was suggested that the Clerk should complete the grant application for £1000 offered by Alex King towards replacement of the Village Green posts, as they will need replacement anyway, but in the meantime the Council requested that the Clerk obtain a sample of the post materials from Solway Recycling so that they can look at the colour and strength of the material, before deciding upon the type of posts to be used.

7. HIGHWAYS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

7.1 Highways

The following problems were mentioned for reporting to KHS:

- Sign post still not mended at Pearson's Green road

The following problems with hedges were reported and the Clerk was requested to write to the owners:

- South view, Maidstone Road.

The Clerk had received an email from Mr Hughes at Weavers, commenting about the increased amount of heavy traffic which uses the Goudhurst Road and the speed at which the traffic moves, and making some suggestions which may assist the situation.

Members of the Council suggested that whilst they support what Mr Hughes had to say in his letter, they did not believe that Kent Highways Services would take the actions which he mentions because of the nature of the road in that area of the village. It was mentioned that Mr Hughes may wish to become an active member

of Speedwatch to try and slow traffic down. It was also suggested that the Clerk let him know about the interactive speed sign which should be erected soon in that area. Clerk to write.

Whilst the discussion took place the point was raised that many foreign lorry drivers are now parking at the cold stores and that on at least one occasion a large vehicle had been seen leaving the depot on the wrong side of the road. It was suggested that the Clerk write to GG Tomkinson, who hold the license, and ask if they might erect a sign which drivers can see on leaving the site, reminding them to drive on the correct side of the road. This could perhaps be displayed in several different languages as it is at the Ports.

It was also mentioned that the Hams travel bus which takes local children to school now turns around by driving up the Maidstone Road and down Back Lane. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Hams and let them know that the end of Back Lane becomes extremely slippery in icy weather and turning there may be best avoided at these times.

7.2 Report on proposed closure of the exit form Crittenden Road on to the A228

The meeting regarding the proposed closure of Crittenden Road at one end, had been well attended by members of the public from all surrounding parishes and following this it had been decided by KCC that as the closure was very much opposed by many local people, the decision to temporarily close one end of the road would be reversed for the time being.

The intention is to allow more time for consultation to take place and for alternative suggestions to be looked into.

Horsmonden Parish Council had been invited to attend the next consultation meeting as an observer, but it was felt by members of the Council that the Council should be able to take part in the discussion as this matter clearly affects Parishioners of Horsmonden. Clerk to email Alex King and say that HPC believe they should have a voiced representative at the next meeting.

It was proposed from the Chair that Cllr Robins attend the meeting as the voiced representative of the Council and not as an observer, due to the impact that this may have on residents of Horsmonden. Unanimous.

7.3 Street lighting

Two street lights had been reported as not working, one in Furnace Lane and the other outside Penhall in the Lamberhurst Road. These had been reported by the Clerk to SEC for repairs.

7.4 Festive lighting

The Clerk had been trying to look into alternative types of festive lighting, but had not succeeded in finding anything of interest as yet, owing to lack of time resources.

7.5 Village green. Millennium plaque, gate, benches and posts.

These matters had already been discussed in the Public Session.

8. PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

8.2 Filing for safe storage of PC documents

The Clerk and Chairman had started some investigations into the cost of fireproof storage for PC documents. Some of the cupboards were very small, but the Clerk suggested that the Council need to assess the number of documents which need fireproof storage as opposed to ordinary storage of documents.

8.3 Village Hall - completion of lease and replacement of back fence

The Clerk had now prepared the draft lease and sent it to Mrs Jones so that the Village Hall committee could consider it at their next meeting, at the end of February.

It was proposed from the Chair that if the VH management committee are agreeable to the completion of the lease, that HPC appoint Cllr Robins to sign the lease on behalf of the Parish Council. Unanimous.

The Clerk had written to Mrs K Jones , who lives behind the Village Hall ,about replacement of the fencing between her own property and the hall in November but had not received a response as yet. The Clerk to send a reminder.

8.4 Public conveniences.

The Clerk had now received a draft lease form TWBC but several of the terms and conditions may need looking at closely as it states that TWBC does not have to offer a new lease when the term ceases in five years time. The Clerk had emailed other PC's about the situation with their loos to see if they are in similar circumstances. In Goudhurst and Paddockwood TWBC has agreed to maintain the loos. Benenden still awaits a lease. Lamberhurst had a draft lease but the terms are quite different as their loos are attached to the PC owned Village hall. Hawkhurst has agreed to have the loos demolished and instead use the cinemas loos as part of the public toilets scheme. The Clerk said that it should be noted that the Public toilets scheme monies would only be paid out for as long as they last, and that interestingly Hawkhurst had managed to get TWBC to pay for its legal costs associated with the demolition of the toilets there.

It was proposed from the Chair that a working party be elected consisting of Cllr March and Cllr Parker to enter into negotiations with TWBC to obtain a lease more favourable to the Parish. This was voted for unanimously.

8.5 Disposal of PC property.

The Chairman read out a list of items which the PC had in storage and it was suggested that he following need to be sold for the best price available:

- o Black rubber tiles from old play area
- o Two bay swing from old play area
- o Old climbing frame

Other items in storage which the Council wish to retain consist of:

- o Two lamp posts
- o The William Lambert Plaque (removed from the old Boddingtons site)
- o Litter picking equipment

Cllr Stevens also has in storage the old roundabout from the old play area and it was agreed that the Council would leave this with Cllr Stevens to dispose of as he saw fit.

The old tithe map on the Village Hall stage still needed removing and Cllr Robins agreed to photograph this to send on to County archives so that they can determine whether they wish to retain it or not.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 KCC – Annual Performance Report 2008/09

There was no interest in this at present.

9.2 Kent High Weald Partnership –Orchards project.

Clerk to email the link to Cllr March who will respond appropriately.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Cllr Holloway said she will unfortunately not be available for the May meeting, but will sign any forms etc needed beforehand with the Clerk.

The Kent Wildlife trust had asked for the Council to display some notices, but the Clerk felt there was not enough room on the board for this.

NALC were advertising some Leadership Academy days in March, April, July and November. There was no interest from the Council at present to attend these.

The Clerk had received an acknowledgement form Alliance Cornhill Insurers in response to her email confirming that all measures had now been put in force at the Institute Building to secure it from vandalism as far as possible.

The Clerk reminded Cllr Robins, March, Clemson and Hughes that they had agreed to attend a training session at the Town Hall on Monday 1st March at 2pm regarding Planning. She had not received an Agenda for this as yet

The meeting closed at 10.55pm

Next Meeting Dates

Monday March 1st 2010 - Parish Council Meeting

Monday April 5th 2010 - Parish Council Meeting

Monday 19th April 2010 – Planning Committee

Monday May 10th 2010 - Annual Parish Meeting

Monday May 17th 2010 - Annual meeting of the Parish Council

Monday June 14th 2010 – Parish Council Meeting

Monday June 28th 2010 – Planning Committee

Monday July 12th 2010– Parish Council Meeting

Monday August 16th 2010 Planning Committee

Monday September 6th 2010 – Parish Council Meeting

Monday October 4th 2010 – Parish Council Meeting

Monday November 1st 2010– Parish Council Meeting

Monday December 6th 2010 – Parish Council Meeting

Monday December 13th 2010 Finance Committee and Risk Assessment